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Ministry of Advanced Education

SFU OFFERING NEW DEGREE IN WORLD LITERATURE

SURREY – Simon Fraser University is offering a new bachelor's degree in world literature, providing students with a better understanding of cultures from around the world, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced today.

The four-year bachelor of arts program, launched in September, emphasizes trans-national culture and the importance of intercultural contact and exchange. The program, offered at SFU's Surrey campus, aims to tap into the exceptional ethnic diversity of the Lower Mainland by bringing students from different backgrounds together to learn about world literature and culture.

"Given British Columbia's diverse population, new programs that foster multicultural understanding are good news," said Coell. "Education plays a pivotal role in helping people understand the needs, concerns, and aspirations of people from other regions of the world."

A unique feature of the program is that students must study a language other than English and will have the opportunity to read novels, essays and poetry in other languages. The program encourages the cross-cultural reading of texts. Students are encouraged to take advantage of field schools and international exchange opportunities to learn more about other cultures.

Students may enter the program directly or in their second year, after completing the first year of SFU's explorations in the arts and social sciences program. Depending on the number and types of courses they complete, students can graduate with a major, minor or honours bachelor of arts degree in world literature.

"SFU expects interest in its newest undergraduate program to be keen," said Heather Dawkins, SFU's associate dean of arts and social sciences. "The world literature program gives students an excellent foundation for careers in the cultural sector and K-12 education. It prepares them for multicultural work environments and international careers in the 21st century."

Since 2003, the ministry has approved 150 new undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The new degrees are helping B.C. improve its competitiveness and productivity through education and skills training.

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